

the South of the Cape, but at night the winde being contrary, we put round againe for the Bay of *Cape Cod*: and upon the 11. of November we came to an anchor in the Bay, which is a good harbour and pleasant Bay, circled round, except in the entrance, which is about foure miles over from land to land, compassed about to the very Sea with Oakes, Pines, Juniper, Sassafras, and other sweet wood; it is a harbour wherein 1000. saile of Ships may safely ride, there we relieved our selues with wood and water, and refreshed our people, while our shallop was fitted to coast the Bay, to search for an habitation: there was the greatest store of fowle that ever we saw.

And every day we saw Whales playing hard by vs, of which in that place, if we had instruments & meanes to take them, we might haue made a very rich returne, which to our great griefe we wanted. Our master and his mate, and others experienced in fishing, professed, we might haue made three or foure thousand pounds worth of Oyle; they preferred it before Greenland Whale-fishing, & purpose the next winter to fish for Whale here; for Cod we assayed, but found none; there is good store no doubt in their season. Neither got we any fish all the time we lay there, but some few little ones on the shore. We found great Mussels, and very fat and full of Sea pearle, but we could not eat them, for they made vs all sick that did eat, as well saylers as passengers; they caused to cast and secrete, but they were soone well againe. The bay is so round & circling, that before we could come to anchor, we went round all the points of the Compass. We could not come neere the shore by three quarters of an English mile, because of shallow water, which was a great preiudice to vs, for our people going on shore were forced to wade a bow shoot or two in going a-land, which caused many to get colds and coughs, for it was ny times freezing cold weather.

This day before we came to harbour, observing some not well affected to unity and concord, but gave some appearance of faction, it was thought good there should be an association and agreement, that we should combine together in

in one body, and to submit to such government and governments, as we should by common consent agree to make and chose, and set our hands to this that followes word for word,

**I**N the name of God, Amen. We whose names are vnder-written, the loyall Subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord King *JAMES*, by the grace of God of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith; &c.

Having vnder-taken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian Faith, and honour of our King and Countrey, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the Northerne parts of *VIRGINIA*, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant, and combine our selues together into a civill body politique, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such iust and equall Lawes, Ordinances, acts, constitutions, offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the generall good of the Colony: vnto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we haue here vnder subscribed our names *Cape Cod* 11. of November, in the yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord King *JAMES*, of England, France, and Ireland 18. and of Scotland 54. Anno Domini 1620.

The same day so soone as we could we set a-shore 15. or 16. men, well armed, with some to fetch wood, for we had none left; as also to see what the Land was, and what Inhabitants they could meet with; they found it to be a small neck of Land; on this side where we lay is the Bay, and the further side the Sea; the ground or earth, sand hills, much like the Downes in *Holland*, but much better; the crust of the earth a Spits depth, excellent blacke earth; all wooded with Oakes, Pines, Sassafras, Juniper, Birch, Holly, Vines, some Ash, Walnut; the wood for the most part open and without vnderwood, fit either to goe or ride in: at night our people returned,

### The Mayflower Compact (1620)

Before landing from the "Mayflower" the Pilgrims drew up a compact which provided for their government during the first years of the Plymouth Colony. This copy is the text as published in John Mourt's Relation of 1622, the first account printed in England of the voyage of the Pilgrims.